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# CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION REPORT

## RECREATION

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

CONSERVATION BRANCH

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*This volume was donated to  
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President, Municipal Planning  
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CENTRAL  
LAKE  
ONTARIO

CONSERVATION

REPORT

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RECREATION

1960



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## AUTHORSHIP

The field work for this report was done and the report written by Ali Tayyeb.

Editing and format were under the personal supervision of A. H. Richardson, R.P.F., P.Eng., assisted by A.S.L. Barnes, R.P.F.

## LIST OF MAPS

### Proposed Conservation Areas

Chalk Lake

Franklin

Woodville

Lynde Creek

Farwell Creek

Stoughton Lake



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

### STATED OR IMPLIED IN THIS REPORT

That the Central Lake Ontario Authority consider the possibilities of developing the following areas for conservation and recreation:-

1. Chalk Lake
2. Brooklin
3. Bowmanville Creek
4. Lynde Creek
5. Farewell Creek
6. Stephen's Gulch



CHAPTER 1  
PRESENT RECREATIONAL CONDITIONS

1. Location and Size in Terms of Recreational Value

The Central Lake Ontario region is a compact area of 242 square miles lying just east of the most heavily urbanized complex in Ontario (the Toronto-Hamilton Belt). It stretches for 20 miles from just west of the Pickering-Whitby townline to just east of the Darlington-Clarke township boundary and for nearly 12 miles inwards from the shores of Lake Ontario. It thus contains all of Whitby and East Whitby Townships, 96 per cent of Darlington Township and small portions (approximately 5 per cent) also of Pickering, Reach and Clarke Townships along the western, northern and eastern margins. The bulk of the area in these townships is rural, containing a population of 18,084 (1960). Along the lakeshore are three urban centres, the towns of Whitby (population 11,943) and Bowmanville (population 7,203) and in between these, the city of Oshawa (population 57,683). The total population of the region thus, is 93,913, just over 80 per cent being urban.

Urban growth throughout the southern section is quite rapid, largely in response to and in consonance with the urban expansion of the metropolitan region of Toronto and the industrial growth which is simultaneously taking place throughout the area between Oshawa and Hamilton. Whitby and Oshawa already form a continuous urban area, and even the small stretch of rural land between Bowmanville and Oshawa is rapidly developing into, and is eventually destined to become, urban land. Before the end of the century the region is likely to double its population, an increasing proportion of which will be urban.

The region is directly connected to and already adjacent with the Toronto-Hamilton urban area. Highway No. 401 and Highways No. 2 and No. 7 all bring this region within an hour's drive of the vast and rapidly growing urban population in the west.



The tendency towards urban expansion is naturally resulting in the loss of rural and forested land within the Toronto region, with the result that urbanites seeking outdoor recreation have to go farther out. The increasing number of automobiles also facilitates this tendency. For long-term recreation (summer cottages) the people do not mind travelling considerable distances to the resort areas of lakes in the more northern sections of Ontario. These areas are, however, not suitable for short-term recreation which may involve, say a day's outing. For this kind of recreation one must still depend on areas close by. In this regard, the northern sections of the Central Lake Ontario region offer considerable opportunity - both in terms of existing facilities and potential for future development. In fact it is an ideal area for this purpose.

## 2. Physical Features of the Watershed

The physical geography of the region is rather simple. All along the northern margin is the area of interlobate glacial moraine, which has a relative altitude often of 250 feet and a maximum altitude in some cases of 1,000 feet above sea level. It stretches in the form of an east-west band of "high-land", the region lying along and below the southern face of this land. Below the high-land is the glacial plain covered uniformly but with varying thickness of glacial-fluvial detritus, consisting for the most part of sand and easily erodible till. The streams from the southern slope of the moraine, even if small, have thus been able to incise and form deep independent channels.

From west to east there are five main streams, the Lynde Creek, Pringle Creek, Oshawa Creek, Farewell Creek and Bowmanville Creek - all flowing from north to south and all but Pringle Creek having tributaries, often as large as the main stream.

Lynde Creek has two main branches running parallel and close to each other. The longest, hence perhaps the main



stream, is the most easterly one. It originates in the springs around Chalk Lake, which is a sizeable glacial kettle in the heart of the kame moraine in the north-west corner of the region. The bulk of Whitby Township is tributary to the Lynde and its branches. At its southern end lies the town of Whitby, only the north-western corner of which is traversed by a tributary of the Lynde Creek. For the most part the creek is clean, although some pollution is noticeable just west and south of Whitby Town.

Pringle Creek is a very small stream - the entire course being approximately ten miles. Water flow, although small, is nevertheless perennial. Traversing across the eastern edge of Whitby Town, the waters of this creek have higher pollution than those of the larger Lynde Creek.

The central section of the region is occupied by Oshawa Creek and its branches, which also originates and accumulates its waters on the southern slopes of the moraine. All but two of its tributaries join the main stream in the northern rural area, and the sparsely populated suburban section of Oshawa. Waters throughout this northern section are fairly clean. Within the city of Oshawa, the waters are very badly polluted by residential and industrial sewage, mainly by the latter, and are unsafe even for wading. The creek passes through the heart of the city. Here it receives two more small tributaries, each of which is heavily polluted. Its recreational value within the city is thus limited. There has been a long-standing desire on the part of some citizens of Oshawa to have a scenic drive developed along the creek banks, but this is not possible any more. The most scenic sections along the creek have already been appropriated by expensive residential development.

Just east of Oshawa lies the small but well-fed multiple watershed of Black, Farewell and Harmony Creeks. Black and Farewell Creeks have quite picturesque courses and



before their junction with Harmony Creek contain fairly clean water. The Harmony Creek, in the south-eastern part of the city is, on the other hand, virtually a sewer impregnated with industrial and residential refuse.

The easternmost section of the region is occupied by two main streams, Bowmanville and Soper Creeks, which join just before draining into Lake Ontario below Bowmanville. Both originate in the moraine country in the north and establish well defined courses, sections of which, in the upper parts, are quite picturesque. Both have considerable recreational value, but only north of Bowmanville.

Apart from the main streams, there are half a dozen very small channels, none more than five miles long, which in terms of drainage are of very local and limited value. They occupy the areas in between the main watersheds and have no recreational value.

The temperature of the water in the main streams varies from cold (less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit in summer) in the upper third of the courses to intermediate (between 60-68 degrees Fahrenheit) in the middle third, and to warm in the lowest sections (above 68 degrees Fahrenheit). The coldest water is the cleanest while the warmer water is usually polluted. It is this latter section which also lies within the heavily-populated areas while the cleaner water lies farther north in the sparsely peopled areas. The lakeshore itself has rather limited recreational value, partly because the water of Lake Ontario is too cold for most of the summer to make swimming enjoyable and partly because the mouths of the main streams, where water would be warmer, are either polluted or swampy or both. Even so, there is Lakeview Park of 44 acres within Oshawa, and Darlington Provincial Park is being developed by the Department of Lands and Forests just east of Oshawa. This park embraces 295 acres with about one half-mile of lake front. About 100 acres will be reforested and the remainder devoted to



picnic, camping and trailer camp sites. A suitable section of the shore near the long spit will be developed for swimming and boating.

Almost all the recreational potential of the region is concentrated in what is at present rural land, a factor of considerable importance in the present and future recreational development within the region.

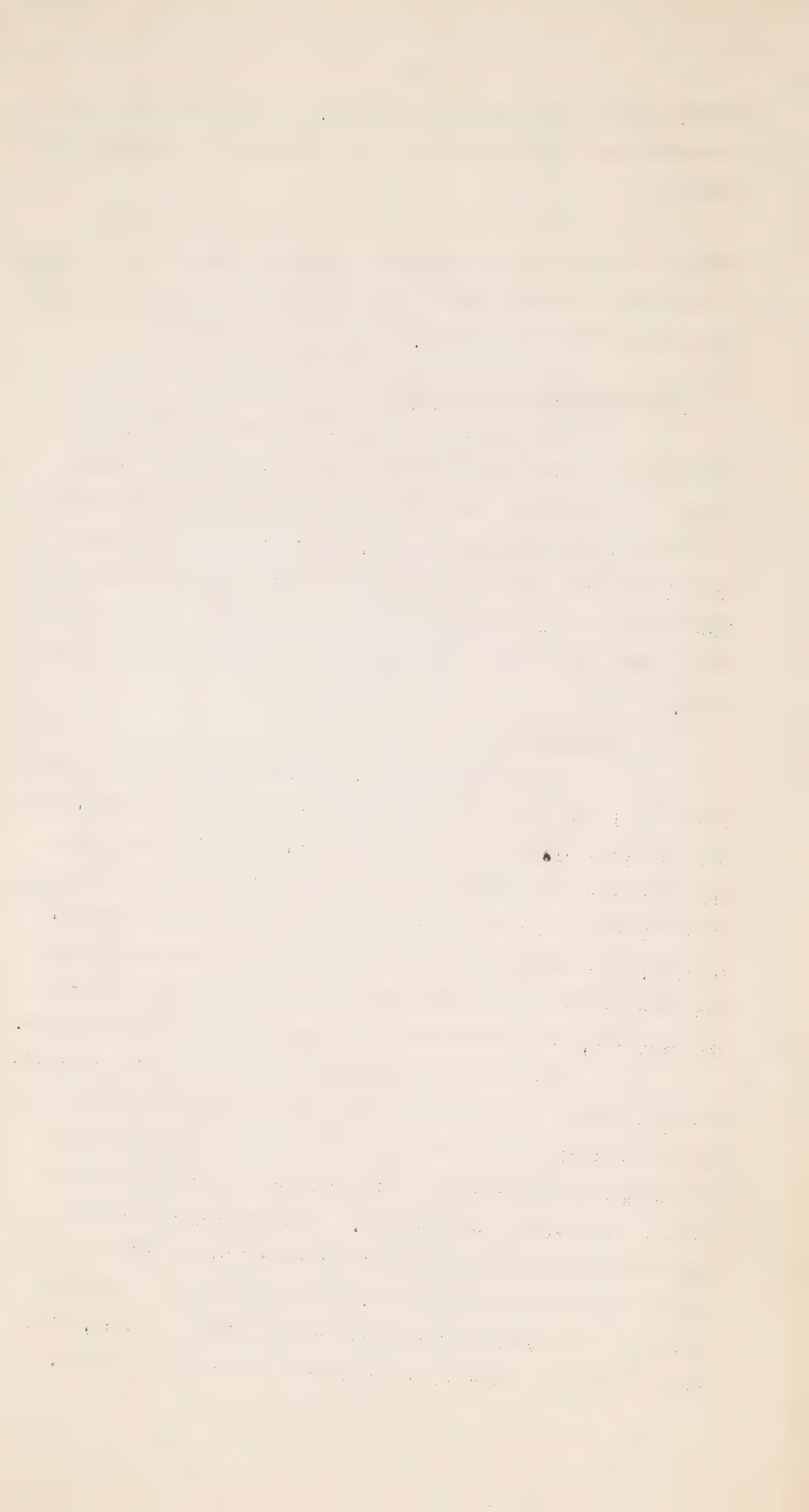
### 3. Present Recreational Areas

The demand for outdoor recreation and the potential for such development has been recognized by local people to a greater degree than sections of comparable size in the littoral belt of Lake Ontario. This is evident from the number, the size and the popularity of privately developed recreation areas - some of which originated before the large-scale urban expansion. The more important ones are discussed below.

#### (a) Geneva Park

This is the oldest, the best known and the most used of all the existing outdoor summer recreational areas, also the one lying closest to the urban area. It lies only three miles north of the Oshawa city limits, a mile east of Columbus, thus bringing the park within easy range of the Torontonians. In fact, as a result of four checks, it was discovered that on the average people from the Toronto area form nearly half of the visitors, the percentage being even higher on the week-ends.

The park is privately owned and occupies approximately 75 acres of land on the west bank of the east branch of Oshawa Creek in Lot 9, Concession VI of East Whitby Township. The creek here flows rather swiftly over a stony bed and the water is shallow and rather cold. The owner has therefore tapped the creek waters to provide two artificial swimming pools for the benefit of the visitors. A flat terrace on the east bank has been developed into well grassed picnic grounds, with picnic tables and benches to accommodate nearly 200 persons.



Provision is also made for tennis, children's play areas, a large refreshment booth and a community dance hall. No facilities are provided for overnight stay, the open hours being from 9 o'clock in the morning to 11.00 p.m. at night. All these facilities are available at a charge of 75 cents per day per car-load, with a likelihood of an increase in charge to \$1.00.

Picnicking and swimming are the main uses. There is no provision for barbecues and open fires are not permitted. Despite the limited facilities, average week-end attendance count at 3.00 p.m. on Sundays and Saturdays revealed an attendance of over 600 persons for each day.

(b) Lynbrook Park

This property lies  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Oshawa and covers approximately 80 acres in Lots 30 to 32, Concession V, of Whitby Township. It occupies the valley of the western branch of Lynde Creek, where the stream is beginning to incise deeply with banks nearly 100 feet high. The rough appearance of the terrain in this section has led to it being called the "Devil's Glen". The banks are well wooded and even the flat-bottomed valley land has a considerable number of shady trees.

The property extends on both sides of the stream. The flat land on either side has been developed into picnic grounds equipped with both open and sheltered picnic tables sufficient for 400 people at a time. There are also two artificial swimming tanks fed by filtered water from the creek. Also, there are eight small cabins and cottages, only two of which are used in summer, the others being in a state of disrepair.

Fires are not allowed, but coffee, tea, cold beverages, and refreshments can be purchased from the local stall. The park is used only between 7.00 a.m. and 11.00 p.m.

The owner charges 75 cents per car and \$5.00 per bus load. In fact the park is more popular with groups than with individuals and almost every summer week-end is booked for



office or factory picnic parties. The owner was unable to supply any accurate census of attendance, but at a safe estimate, nearly 1,000 people attend the park over a sunny week-end. The park is open May to September with peak attendance during July and August.

(c) Pine Ridge Park

This property lies just above the Lynbrook Park, atop the western bank of the west branch of Lynde Creek. It occupies 32 acres in Lot 32, Concession V of Whitby Township, and was opened as a recreation area only last year. Although the creek does not pass through the property, the water is used for two artificial swimming pools, by pumping it up the bank. The western and northern sections are bare, but the eastern and southern sections are richly wooded. In this latter section, the owner is developing picnic areas equipped with parking space, picnic tables, barbecues, refreshment booth and possibly also a dance hall. There is a beautiful vista site at the edge of the high bank.

This is also a day picnic area closing every night at 11.00 p.m. The owner charges 50 cents per car-load for the visit and 25 cents per head extra for swimming. The owner and his son, who is the manager of the property, are very enthusiastic and engaged in rapid improvement of the recreational facilities. This, as well as the previous property, lies within a mile of No. 7 Highway, so that visits by people from Toronto and/or Oshawa areas are easy. Judging from the popularity of a number of picnic areas that dot the No. 7 Highway between Toronto and Oshawa, the future of this property seems bright and assured.

(d) Chalk Lake

This property contains part of Chalk Lake and 108 acres along the southern shore in Lot 1, Concession I, of Reach Township in the extreme north-western corner of the region just off the county road. As mentioned earlier, Chalk Lake is



a kettle pond, which is also the headwaters of the Lynde Creek. The lake lies at an altitude of 940 feet, recessed within a beautifully undulating part of the inter-lobate moraine. The northern shore of the lake is rapidly acquiring privately owned cottages, but the southern shore has been developed into a picnic area. Unfortunately, wide stretches of this shore are swamp, but can be easily cleaned up. The present owner has not felt it necessary to do so, beyond developing small sections for swimming by children and adults. The children's area is roped off at 4 feet depth and fronts on a shallow, cultivated beach. The adult's area borders a rocky section of the shore. The lake has a maximum depth of 60 feet, and some visitors are interested in provision for deep-water diving, which may be made available if the demand for this sport increases.

About 100 picnic tables line the southern shore. Open fires are not allowed, but visitors can obtain tea, coffee, hamburgers and hot dogs from a refreshment booth, owned and operated by the owner. The park is open from the middle of May to the end of August and is available only for day use. The owner is not able to provide any reliable estimate of attendance, but on the average, about 400 persons visit the park on a sunny week-end. The park is fairly well known, and easily accessible both from No. 7 Highway on the south and from No. 12 Highway in the east. The attendance charges are 75 cents per car, with three persons or less and 25 cents extra for each additional passenger. The park is visited mainly by people from the Toronto area.

(e) Other Special Recreation Areas

Mention may be made of other areas developed to provide recreation facilities to specific groups. The best known of these is Camp Samac, built for the use of the Boy Scouts by Colonel R. S. MacLaughlin, just north of Oshawa, which is a permanent camp providing training and recreation. It lies on the eastern branch of Oshawa Creek, has extensive grounds, a



small artificial lake, well-wooded slopes, residential log cabins and workshops for the use of trainees.

Another area providing residential facilities for extended recreation during the summer is Camp Pretoria. It is situated almost across from Camp Samac and available for the use only of the cottagers. There are six cabins on the flat valley land and two atop the bank, each of which is rented for an average of two months each summer.

#### 4. Parks in Urban Areas

Most urban municipalities attempt to provide outdoor recreation facilities locally, but research and experience in many urban centres, shows that the officially listed recreational space seldom conforms to the actual space suitable for any satisfactory degree of outdoor recreation. The usual practice is to list all land that is not suitable for residential, commercial, industrial, official or institutional uses as recreational land, irrespective of its recreational quality or potential. This is unfortunately true of the region under consideration. Lakeview Park, at the southern end of the city along the lakeshore, is large enough (44 acres) to provide outdoor recreation facilities for families or larger groups. Here one finds a combination of play-fields, picnic grounds, swimming beaches, shade and bandstand facilities. Oshawa also has 30 other parks and parkettes providing athletic fields and other urban recreational facilities.

The same is true of smaller towns. Bowmanville and Whitby each have single areas providing the minimum facilities listed above.

Only through a factual re-appraisal of the situation is it possible to gauge the actual recreational needs of the people. To be realistic, it is highly unlikely that the municipalities will ever find it possible or necessary to legislate adequate guarantees for recreational land. Fortunately the Conservation Authority, which cuts across municipal boundaries and restrictions, is able to institute both research and



corrective improvement measures. Therefore, the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is urged to institute measures to alleviate the situation by acquiring areas for recreation, so that recreational facilities will be more in keeping with the recreational needs of a rapidly growing population. The areas described in the next chapter are recommended for consideration.







## CHAPTER 2

### PROPOSED RECREATION AREAS

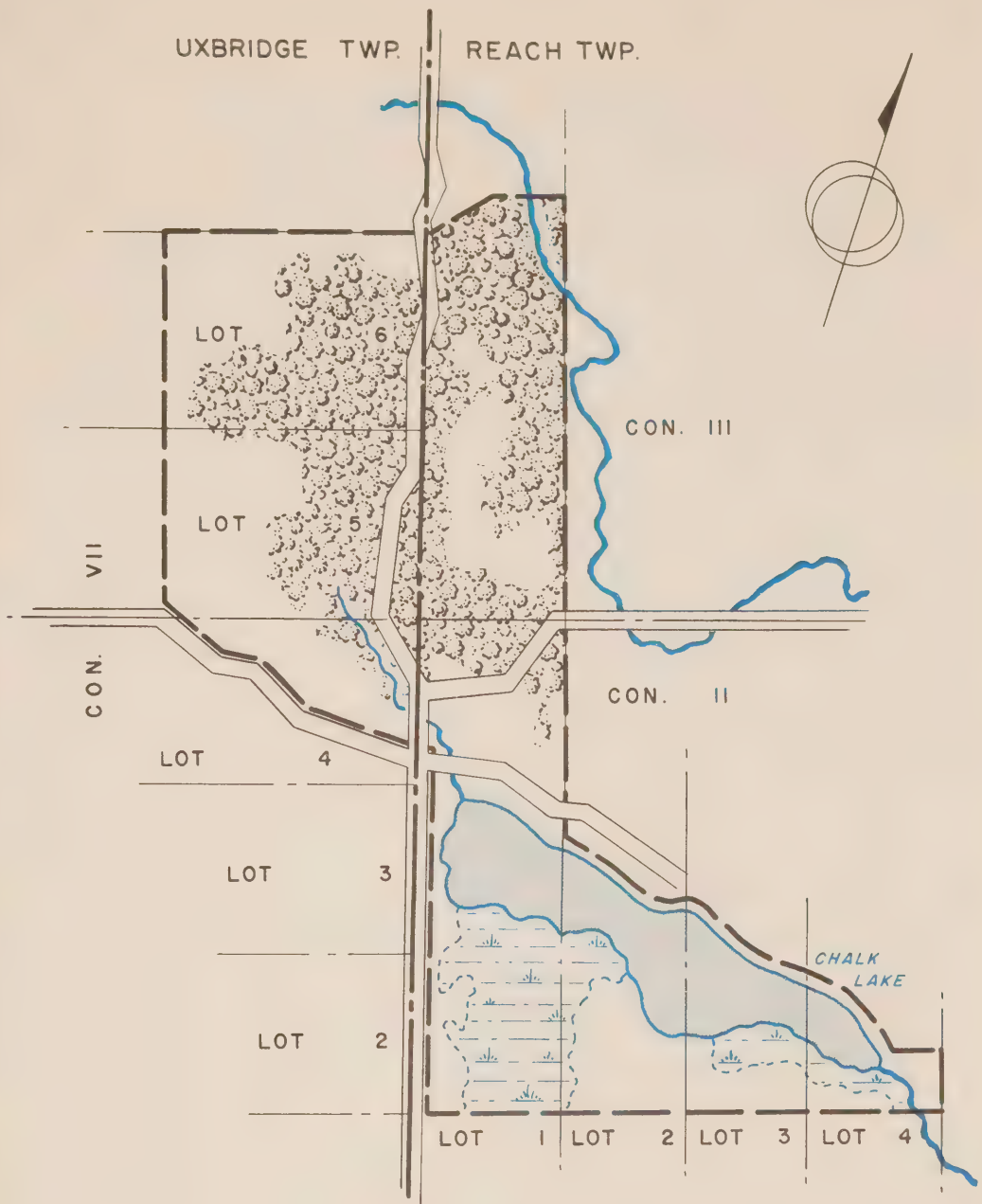
#### 1. The Chalk Lake Conservation Area

The proposed Area occupies 400 acres in the north-western corner of the watershed, and is located in Concession III, Lots 1 and 2 of Reach Township, and Concession VII, Lots 2 to 7 of Uxbridge Township. A more detailed description of the property in the vicinity of Chalk Lake which forms the headwaters of the Lynde Creek has already been given in the previous chapter. It may be recalled that although the property is, even at the present time, being used for recreation, its aesthetic potential is not being fully exploited. To cite the prominent aspects of the situation, there is no attempt being made to improve the swampy shores or to reforest the bare and erodible slopes in this undulating morainic area. In fact, the one weakness of the present Chalk Lake Park is the sparsity of trees and woods. In short, the property is recreationally underdeveloped, but could be vastly improved through planning.

The recreational potential and facilities of the area can be most easily enhanced by incorporating it within a larger area. The proposal, therefore, is to acquire the area which adjoins in the north-west part of Lakeview Park. This area consists of beautifully rolling morainic hills reaching a maximum altitude of 1,150 feet above sea level. People from Oshawa do occasionally use the slopes for skiing, and the area should be developed for skiing, and sledding on a more permanent basis. The incorporation of this property with Chalk Lake Park, will, in addition to providing a larger area, provide year-round multiple recreational facilities.

The new property has many acres of very rich woodland consisting of close stands of both broad-leaved and coniferous trees. The county road passes right through this wooded area, and driving on it during the fall is a most rewarding aesthetic experience. Young artists take full advantage of the





# PROPOSED CHALK LAKE CONSERVATION AREA

-LEGEND-

- WOODLAND
- SWAMP





motley and colourful patterns of the woodland to practise their craft.

Hiking trails along the wooded slopes would be most enjoyable. Picnic areas could be established in many different parts. Facilities for playing fields could also be provided in the lower, flatter, parts around the lake which in summer is already used for swimming and in winter could easily be used for skating, while the slopes farther up provide facilities for skiing, sleigh riding and tobogganing.

The proposal envisages the acquisition of two separate properties. The Chalk Lake property owing to the fact that it is already developed as a recreational area may be more expensive than the hill property in the north which is agriculturally poor and relatively useless for anything but recreational development.

There is no problem of access to the area which can be easily approached from No. 12 Highway, and the road between Pickering and Whitby Townships. Both these roads cross three main east highways - Nos. 2, 7 and 401.

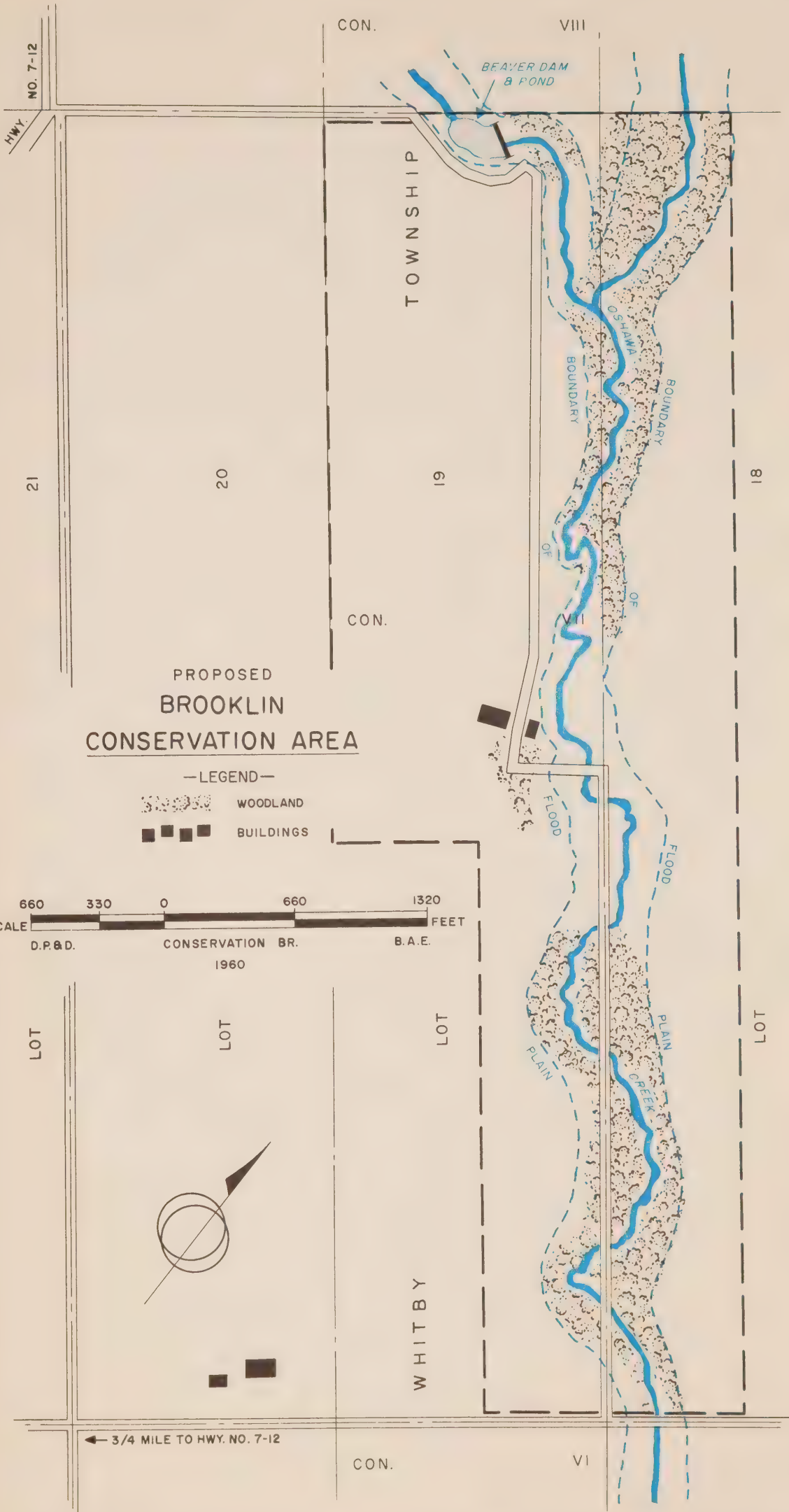
## 2. The Brooklin Conservation Area

The proposed Area consists of 123 acres more or less, lying in parts of Lots 18 and 19, Concession VII of Whitby Township, County of Ontario. Its location is such that the majority of the population within the Authority boundaries from urban centres such as Oshawa and Whitby are within easy driving distance on adequate access roads. The King's Highway 7-12 is only three quarters of a mile from the junction of the access road and the east-west road between the 6th and 7th concessions. The property is only six and three-quarter miles from Whitby, and twelve and three-quarter miles from Oshawa.

### (a) Terrain

The topography of the area is gently to steeply sloping. The level till plains in the immediate vicinity were developed from limestone of the Trenton formation and black shale







of the Utica formation. The soils supported by these till plains are gray-brown podzolics of the Darlington series. Transversing or cutting through these till plains are stream-courses which have their origin high in the interlobate moraine which crosses Ontario County immediately south of Lake Scugog. By the time these streams have reached the 8th and 7th concessions of Whitby Township, they are flowing rapidly and as a result cause the formation of deep, narrow valleys. One of these valleys forms part of this proposed Conservation Area. The walls of this little valley or glen are very steep, i.e., in the order of 30-40 per cent in the northern portion of the property.

(b) Woodland - (15 acres)

The slopes of this narrow valley are fairly heavily wooded, especially on the east side, with white cedar being the predominant species, interspersed with hemlock, white pine, poplar, and a few maple and elm. The woodland acreage within the property is not extensive. However, it would fit in well with the remainder of the woodlot which is outside the east boundary, if the latter were included at a later date. The existing woodland involved is partly on the flood plain and also on the steep slopes adjacent to it. The species aforementioned are in good condition and are possibly 30-60 years old. There is no evidence of any extensive woodland grazing.

(c) Open Land - (75 acres)

The open land or table-land comprises the main section of the property, lying west of the valley. The soils of this land are mapped as part of the Darlington series derived from a clay-loam till. The drainage on this area is good to moderately good. These lands are presently being cropped or pastured in connection with the owner's dairy enterprise. Gully and sheet erosion are very common on these soils.

(d) Flood-Plain Land - (35 acres)

There is quite an acreage of this land on the property which naturally follows the course of the stream, i.e.,



its boundaries parallel the stream to some extent and in certain areas it spreads out until it joins the toes of the valley slopes. The shape of this acreage is determined on the east by the property line, but one could say generally that it is in the form of an hour-glass, being wider at the north and south extremities of the property. The last serious flood in this area was in 1928 when the then existing dams on the property (three) were washed out.

(e) Buildings

The main buildings on the farm are the barn and the house which are situated on a knoll in the south-west section of the property, i.e., on the tableland well away from the flood plain. The house is at least 50 years old but has been renovated within the last ten years and is in good condition. The barn is also in very good condition having a metal roof and stanchion construction inside. It is a dairy barn with milkhouse attached. It has been estimated that to build such a barn today it would cost \$25,000.

(f) Old Dams

There are three old dams on the property which could be restored very easily. Two of these are situated on the west branch of the main stream, just after it enters the property. They are located very close together and if the ponds were restored they would cover from 1-1½ acres each. The earth section of these dams is all that remains, the stop-log sections having been washed away during the spring of 1928. The third old dam formerly held back the greatest head of water on the farm. It is situated directly east of the building and created a pond of about 2½-3 acres which contained 2 islands which were accessible by foot-bridges.

The upper two ponds could be incorporated into a fish-management scheme, i.e., when restored they could be made deeper than they were originally and thus made more suitable



for trout. Due to the steep slopes and the limitations of the flood plain in this section, the deepening operation would be facilitated. The larger pond, when restored, would be ideal for recreational purposes.

(g) General Description and History of the Property

A number of years ago, this same property was proposed by a group of private interests as part of a suitable location for a country club and a memorandum was prepared by these individuals outlining their hopes for development. However, due to circumstances at the time, certain obstacles arose, and the "country-club" idea was abandoned. The efforts of these early conservationists were not altogether lost; they did succeed in developing the property to some degree, i.e., the branch of Oshawa Creek on the property was dammed at three places to provide ponds which were used for swimming and fishing.

The property could be developed to demonstrate proper conservation practices.

(1) reforestation could be implemented on the steep slopes adjacent to the flood plain in addition to sound management practices on the existing woodland.

(2) a nature trail system could be incorporated into the Area to provide hiking through the existing woodland and also through part of the present bush on Lot 18 if it became possible to acquire some of the latter property at a future date.

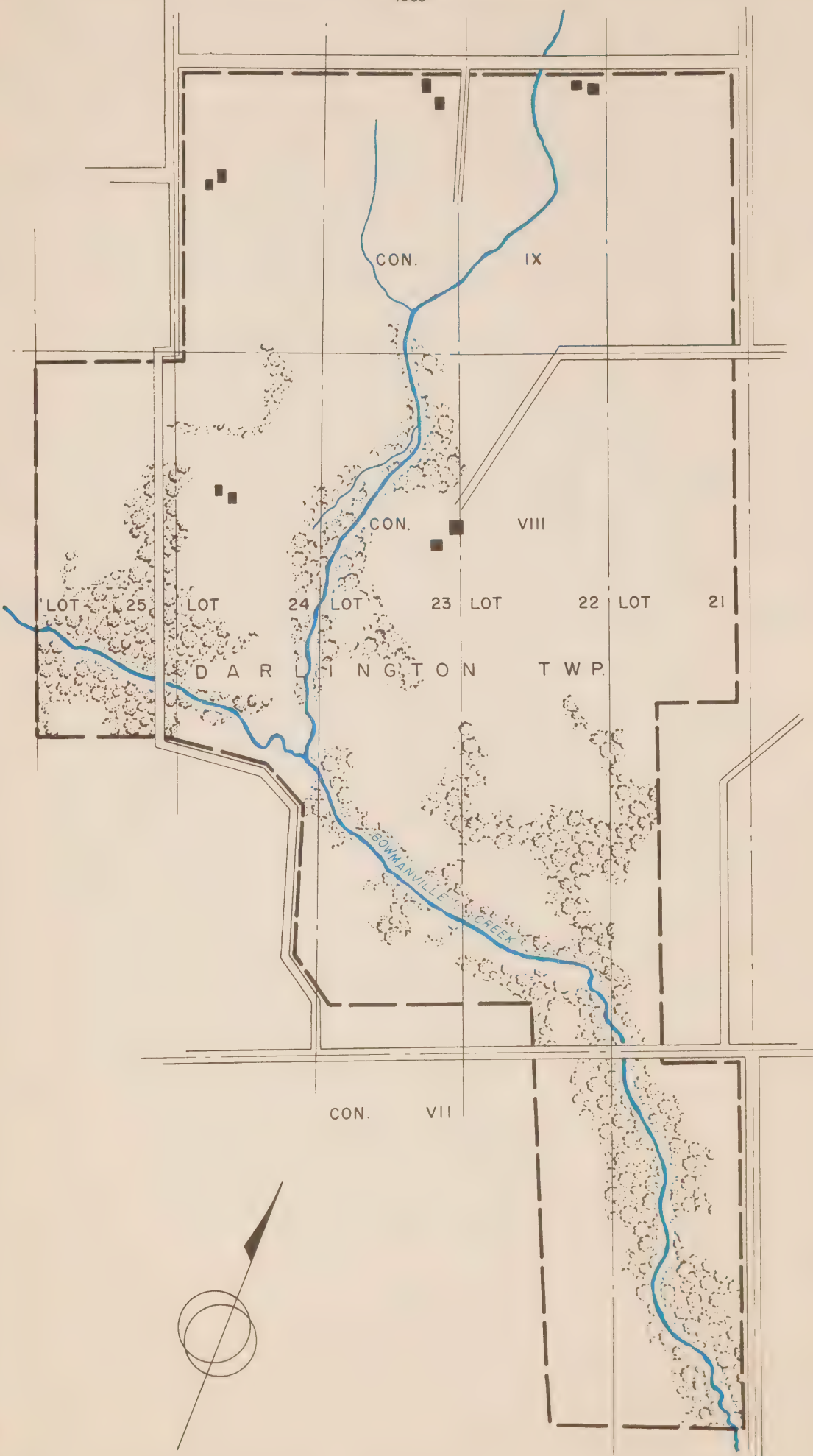
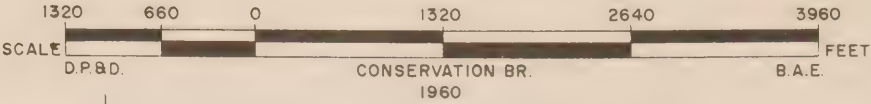
(3) the flood-plain land would also be included in the recreational development providing space for the construction of a beach and possibly playing fields of a general nature. The inclusion of a beach is necessary to control the recreational activity in a manner commensurate with the operation of publicly-owned lands. Similarly, to operate this Area efficiently, some traffic control system should be adopted whereby the flow of vehicles is in one direction only. The buildings on the property would be utilized as development of the Area progresses. The barn in particular would be invaluable for storing future Authority equipment and possibly historical artifacts, the latter



PROPOSED  
BOWMANVILLE CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

-LEGEND-

- WOODLAND
- BUILDINGS





being held there until such time as the Authority would acquire a place where they could be exhibited suitably. The house could feasibly be used as a headquarters or home for the superintendent of the Area as it develops and as warranted by the situation in future years.

(4) As explained previously, the old dams could be restored and used to impound water for both flood control and recreation. This dual purpose makes this property a desirable acquisition from the standpoint of the Authority.

### 3. Bowmanville Creek Conservation Area

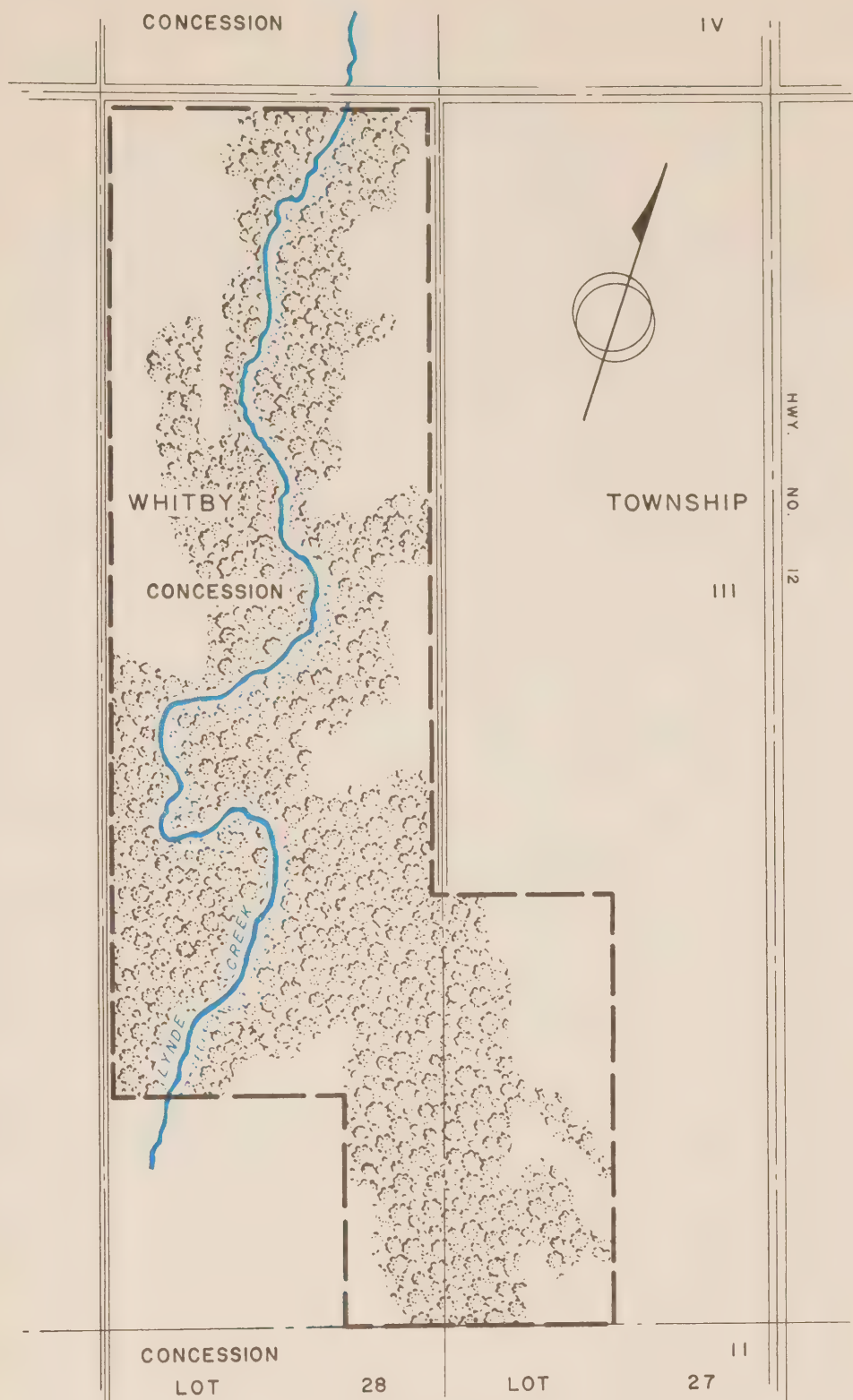
The proposed Area occupies 1,040 acres in the north-eastern part of the watershed. It is located in Concessions VII, VIII, and IX, Lots 21 to 25 of Darlington Township. The proposed Area contains the prettiest and the roughest section of the Bowmanville Creek where it cuts through the moraine. The moraine reaches its highest altitudes in the north end of the watershed of this stream.

The slopes in some places are nearly a mile long, and are also usually bare. The difference of altitude from the north-eastern margin of the property to the creek bed in places exceeds 200 feet. All these factors combine to make it suitable for the development of skiing, a sport facilities for which are usually lacking in the littoral districts of Lake Ontario, but demand for which is constantly increasing. Other winter sports like sledding and tobogganning can also be easily developed to provide winter recreation for the entire family.

The valley areas themselves are quite picturesque, and in many places the youthful stream slices its way through patches of young woods containing both pine and broad-leaf trees. Erosion hazard is high but can be reduced easily by a rational, long-term program of reforestation, which will improve the stability as well as appearance of the valley slopes.

The water in the stream is spring fed. In this section it is quite cold and the flow just after the end of the

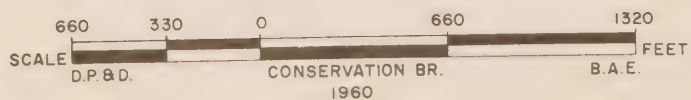




PROPOSED  
LYNDE CREEK  
CONSERVATION AREA

-LEGEND-

WOODLAND





spring thaw is quite low. Brook trout are plentiful for the first two weeks of the annual fishing season; with stocking, the fishing season could be extended.

A swimming area can also be easily developed, preferably at the junction of the two creeks. Picnic sites can be established at numerous places in this property, thus providing large-scale facilities for summer recreation.

As a bi-seasonal recreation area, the property under consideration is really slightly better than the proposed Chalk Lake Area discussed earlier, although it will require greater care and investment to produce optimum recreational facilities.

The acquisition of land involves five different properties, but since the area lies far from urban centres, and the land is agriculturally poor, the cost should be fairly reasonable.

The purchase of the property is recommended for positive reasons. First of all, as a Conservation Area in order that the exposed slopes may be adequately protected, and second because of its suitability for recreational development.

#### 4. Lynde Creek Conservation Area

The proposed Area occupies 188 acres in the middle reaches of the eastern branch of Lynde Creek, two miles north of the town of Whitby and half a mile west of No. 12 Highway. It is located in Concession III, Lots 27, and 28 of Whitby Township.

Although small, the area is very picturesque. Here the creek is in its middle reaches and often deeply incising the soft till flows in a flat bed producing beautiful meanders. In places the valley is three to four hundred yards in width, but the stream channel which runs in sweeping hairpin curves is only a few yards wide. The banks are often high and precipitous, with a fall averaging 50 feet. Both banks are densely wooded, although there are a number of open areas, especially on the western bank, which provide intriguing and



enjoyable views of the creek bed from the road along the bank. Woods of mixed broad-leaved trees are denser and more extensive on the eastern side of the creek.

The water of the creek is quite warm and clean, but the channel is shallow - less than 18 inches deep over most of the summer. Locally the stream in this part is known for its excellent brook trout fishing. When acquired, a swimming pool could easily be developed in the section of the wide loop in the creek in the southern section of the proposed Area.

Material from the banks of the creek in this vicinity has been used for sand and for building bricks, as witnessed by a brick plant just south of the proposed Area. Profitable as this use is, the excavations cause considerable damage on the banks and increase the erosion. In many cases natural vegetation is also lost, and when the operation ceases large ugly scars mar the land. In view of the continuing urban expansion of Whitby and Oshawa, it is likely that the banks of the creek in the proposed Area will also be acquired for the supply of building materials with the usual ugly consequences to the creek and adjoining land.

Alternatively, the creek banks may be acquired for expensive homes, because of their aesthetic quality, and will thus be lost to public use. For all these reasons the early acquisition of the proposed Area is both necessary and justifiable.

It may be pointed out that owing to the rapid expansion of suburban homes in the vicinity, the land within the proposed Area will cost more than similar land elsewhere farther north. The recreational facilities that can be developed i.e., swimming, picnic, play areas, trails etc., and the protection such development will offer to the banks, justify the expenditure involved.

Being small, and close to Whitby and Oshawa, the Area would cater mainly to the recreational needs of the local residents, yet it is also easily accessible from Toronto via No. 2, No. 401 and No. 12 Highways.

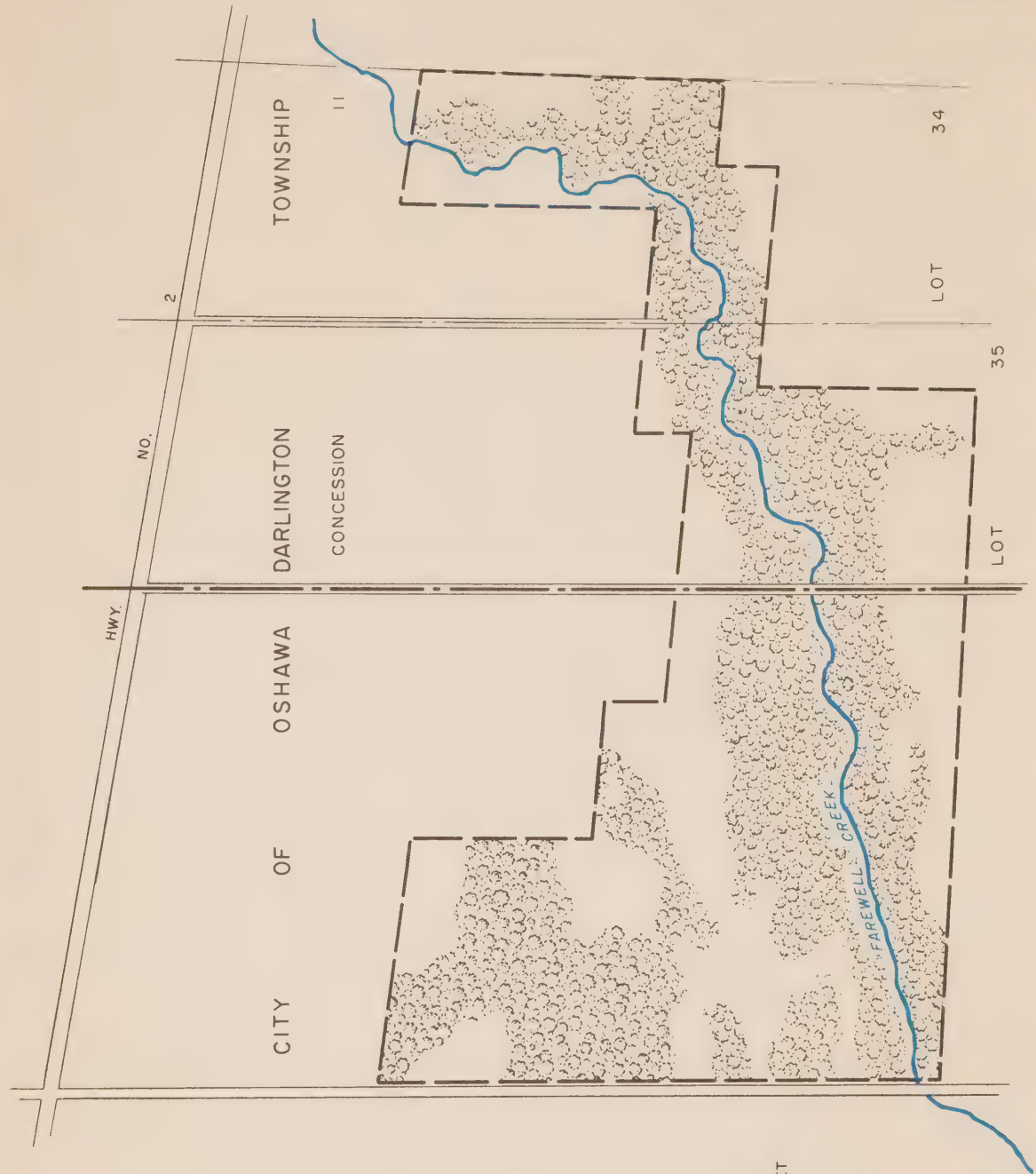
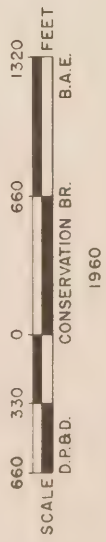




PROPOSED  
FAREWELL CREEK  
CONSERVATION AREA

—LEGEND—

WOODLAND





## 5. The Farewell Creek Conservation Area

This Area should definitely be reserved for Conservation purposes and since it lies largely within the city limits and is strategically located to fill some of the urban recreational needs, it is possible that the City of Oshawa might undertake its development for these purposes.

The proposed Area occupies 235 acres in the lower middle reaches of Farewell Creek in the eastern part of the city of Oshawa. The western half lies within the city, the eastern, in Lots 34 and 35, Concession II of Darlington Township.

It contains one of the most picturesque sections of Farewell Creek which runs swiftly in a channel over a very pretty gravel and stone bed. Both banks are densely wooded and drop steeply to the valley. On the average, the banks are nearly 75 feet high. Ensnconced between them lies the narrow valley with its clean bubbling water making it the only beauty spot lying so close to the city of Oshawa.

The waters are quite shallow during the summer but in early spring the fast flow has considerable erosive power, causing some damage to the lands farther downstream.

It is suggested, that the stream be dammed to provide a swimming area and partly to control the flow of flood in spring and early summer. The easiest site for such a dam lies at the point where the city and township boundary crosses the stream. Provision could also be made for a good fishing area above the dam. The ponded waters could then be used for swimming.

The creek is reputed to be a trout stream. A screen at the upper limit of the swimming area could be erected to stop the fish from drifting downstream and to enhance the fishing facilities upstream. Picnic areas and trails could be developed in many parts.

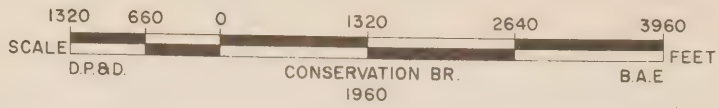
The wooded section at the bond in the eastern part of the proposed Area has had a reputation for considerable bird populations, and would make a good bird sanctuary.



PROPOSED  
STEPHEN'S GULCH  
CONSERVATION AREA

—LEGEND—

WOODLAND





Surburban residential development has already reached the neighbourhood of this area. Part of the land within the city of Oshawa, inside and adjacent to the proposed Area, is already being considered for residential development. The City Planning Board is desirous of having the prospective sub-divider deed to the City, for park purposes, the bulk of the land which lies within the proposed Area. If this were done, only the section in Darlington Township, which is poor agricultural land of rough terrain will have to be purchased.

6. Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area

The proposed Area occupies 890 acres in the eastern part of the watershed. It is located in Concessions III and IV, Lots I to 6 of Darlington Township. It occupies the upper middle reaches of Soper Brook where the stream has carved a deeply-incised valley and is met by a number of tributaries on the east bank, also deeply incised in the soft hill. The combined effect of the vertical erosion is to produce a rough and wild-looking terrain, where altitudinal changes between the valley bed and the bank are steep and fairly frequent. Often the banks rise for 100 feet or more, collectively producing the impression of a "bad land" terrain. The roughest, i.e., the most spectacular part of the valley, lies just below the abandoned railway line whose embankment, since its abandonment, has tended to block part of the valley and produce a pond which with some improvement can serve as a satisfactory swimming area. The trip along the road following the embankment reveals the full beauty of at least a part of the deep valley of Soper Brook.

The main valley is densely wooded, as are the other arms occupied by the tributary streams. The bulk of the trees are broad-leaf and the wooded area has the reputation of once having supported deer and different kinds of hare and birds. Animal population has considerably declined but occasionally deer are still found and squirrels, rabbits and partridges abound.



The waters are shallow and cold, and the stream beds quite gravelly and stony. Trout are common, although for a short period only.

On the whole the property is ideal for all kinds of outdoor recreation during summer months, picnics, fishing, swimming, hiking and nature trails. The area is large enough and facilities for camping can and should be provided. Apart from these positive advantages, the acquisition of the property by the Authority would lead to protection from erosion through reforestation of critical spots, and the acquisition would not conflict with any other important use.

Agriculturally, the land is quite poor and should be sufficiently far from the urban areas to obviate any artificial boost in prices.





